APR 15 1998

Dear Participants:

Welcome to the NAS Data Architecture Conference. I wish I could be there to help kick off this conference, but I do want you all to know I recognize and appreciate the importance of what you are doing. Your efforts are crucial to our entire NAS modernization effort.

The theme of your conference, "Achieving Interoperability with a NAS Common Data Architecture", explains well the purpose of the conference, but it does not fully capture the urgency of your task. As I see it, the air traffic control system is a massive communications and information system designed to help pilots fly safely and efficiently in the NAS. This communications network is made up of a myriad of systems and equipment, many of which "speak" different languages, and we need to manage the data and information in such a way that all of them can communicate with one another. This is the essence and the enormity of your task.

So, I urge all of you to work hard to make this conference a success because so much depends on your efforts. I realize this is the first in a series of collaborative conferences over the next several months, and I will be following the entire effort with great interest

Best wishes to you all for a successful conference

Sincerely,

Jane F. Garvey
Administrator